



It has been an extraordinary summer, with flood waters reaching what has sometimes appeared to be biblical levels. While our hope is that you have not suffered directly from the devastation, our thoughts are with you if you have together with our hopes that normality is returned as quickly as possible in the circumstances.

At the moment we have not heard of any follies or grottoes that have been damaged or lost in the floods. We did, however, receive an urgent call to help save from demolition the celebrated Victorian lavatories at Tenbury Wells. Although not a folly, local residents were desperate to save their newly restored toilets

after the brick wall of a stream at the back of the building was swept away by flood waters. As you can see from the picture, taken by the Shropshire Star, it was in dire straits. Before anyone could mount a response, however, Malvern Hills District Council stepped in and demolished the building in the interests of 'health and safety'. The irony is that on 6 July, only a few days before their destruction, the Market Street toilets had been officially re-opened by Serena Croad, Leader of Malvern Hills Council, after a restoration costing £33,650.



Malvern's decision shows how many local authorities will demolish anything that it is thought to be in a dangerous condition, irrespective of its special architectural or historic value. So, while we were too late to save Tenbury's toilets, it is timely to ask that you check on the condition of your local follies and report back to me if there appears to be a threat.

As a final comment on lavatories, and on a thankfully more cheerful note, Lucy Lambton tells me that her masterpiece *Temples of Convenience* is to be re-published this month. It is an amazing book that took a year to research and photograph, and is undoubtedly the most outstanding homage to the public convenience ever to have been published. If you don't have a copy, I recommend that you acquire one.

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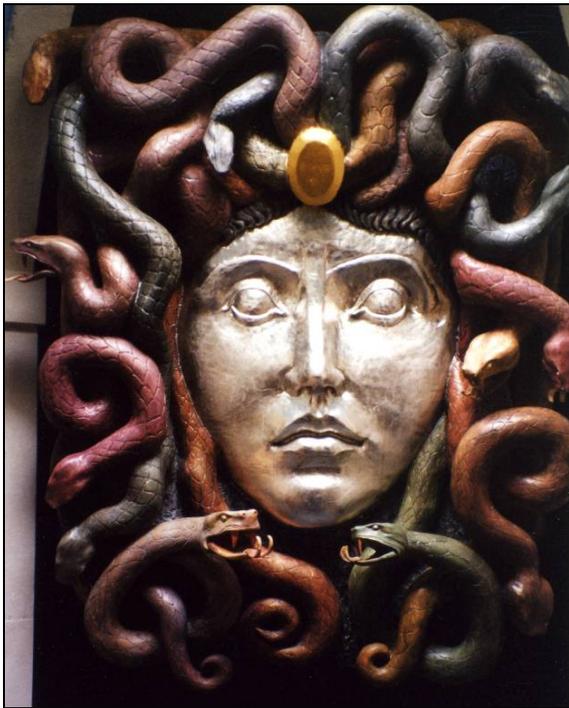
## Book Now for the Garden Party



In case you haven't yet booked your tickets for this year's Garden Party, now is the time to do so. The event takes place on Saturday, 18 August at Pelham Place at Newton Valence, near the town of Alton, Hampshire (O.S. Ref SU 73 SW).

Pelham Place is a romantic Gothic mansion set within a landscaped park. Its real surprise, however, is a new folly garden that has been created by Vernon Gibberd and Derek Bruce. Together they have built a Chinese temple which contains a brilliant secret, plus a subterranean grotto, a Neptune grotto, some amazing sculptures, a Helter Skelter and much, much more.





Tickets are £16 for members, £18 for guests and £10 for under 12s, and include the traditional folly cake and refreshments. They can be obtained from Elizabeth at [follywaters@onetel.com](mailto:follywaters@onetel.com).



## Folly of the Month: Earl Grey's Tower at Stanton Moor, Derbyshire

**B**efore you get too excited, let me assure you that this is not a monument to the sudden elevation of our own Iain Gray following a sizeable donation to AGM funds. No, even though he inconveniently spells his name with an 'a', thus deflating an otherwise amusing opening, and much though he deserves the honour, this sturdy and unassuming little tower commemorates the work of Charles Grey (1764-1845), the second Earl and sponsor of the First Reform Act.

Despite his privileged position in nineteenth century British politics, Earl Grey was appalled by the abuse of power that existed in the so-called 'rotten' or 'pocket' boroughs. He wanted to rid Britain of these ancient relics and give the vote to

more of the people, especially the middle-class whom he knew were not properly represented and who could provide political and economic stability if only they were. Although he made speeches on the subject long beforehand, it was not until he was made Prime Minister in 1830 that he had a real opportunity to do something positive to change the system.



His tactic was bold and needed perseverance to see it through. He fought the 1830 election on the need for Parliamentary Reform and won, but he was initially less successful in winning over his parliamentary colleagues. His first attempt was defeated, as was his second; on his third attempt he was successful in pushing his bill through the House of Commons only to find it defeated in the Lords. He resigned as a consequence but was persuaded by King William IV to return on the promise that the King would create enough peers to see the bill succeed in the Lords. He was finally successful in 1832 when the Reform Act became law. In doing so 56 Boroughs were abolished, 30 of which were allowed to return just one MP, and 22 new Boroughs were created.

So why was this event celebrated in the otherwise quiet village of Stanton-in-the-Peak in the Derbyshire Peak District? The answer is not clear, other than it impressed one Lt. Col. William Thornhill who at that time owned Stanton Hall. Shortly after the passing of the Reform Act he ordered the tower to be built as part of his much wider



building bonanza that included the erection of the nearby Holy Trinity Church. It stands atop the Moor and is surrounded by a number of Bronze Age burial mounds and stone circles, including the 'Nine Ladies' and nearby 'King's Stone'. It is listed in grade II.

## Fancy a Fruity Weekend?

**H**ave you ever wanted to stay at the Dunmore Pineapple but been frustrated to find it booked up for years in advance? If so, now is your chance to jump the queue thanks to one F/F member who has booked it during the weekend of 05-07 October and kindly offered to share it with another couple.



In case it hasn't twigged, this is the same weekend as our tour of Edinburgh and Mid-Lothian, so there is a chance to combine the two. This will, of course, increase the likely competition, so anyone interested should send me an e-mail as quickly as possible and I will forward it to on. At that point I will leave it to the two parties to make the final choice and any arrangements.

## Gobbets!

**C**ongratulations to Mr and Mrs Peters for spotting that last month's competition pictured Repton Temple at Sheringham Park in Norfolk. The Beaujolais is yours.

There is no competition this month, but it will return when this year's Beaujolais harvest is ready and my stocks have been replenished.

Pat Patrick spotted what he first thought was a revival of the British ship-building industry in Poole Harbour. A closer look revealed, alas, that it was just another development of flats on the waterside, this time by Linden Homes.



My own attention was caught by a postcard being sold on e-Bay claiming to show a folly tower at Southampton. Does anyone recognise it and know anything of its history and location etc?



## Forthcoming Events

**Saturday, 08 September** – A tour of Mad Jack Fuller's follies at Brightling, East Sussex. Details available from [andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk)

**Friday, 05 to Sunday, 07 October** – A visit to the fantastic follies of Edinburgh, including:

- **Friday** – St. Bernard's Mineral Well and Calton Hill in central Edinburgh, finishing with dinner at Leith overlooking the Royal Yacht Britannia and a drink at Mylne's Folly.
- **Saturday** – a bus tour of Jamieson's Tower at Portobello, the Cockenzie House grotto, Gosford House mausoleum and grotto, the Hopetoun Monument, and Luffness and Saltoun doocots.
- **Sunday** – a bus tour of Dryden Tower at Bilston, Treggles Tower, Ramsay Monument, Hurley Grotto and Arthur's O'on at Penicuik, Cammo Tower at Turnhouse, and Midhope Tower at the House of the Binns.

Details available from [andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:andrew@follies.fsnet.co.uk).

**Sunday, 04 November** – A visit to Croome Park in Worcestershire, including a guided walk with Mike Cousins and Mike Smith, National Trust manager. Details from [follywaters@onetel.com](mailto:follywaters@onetel.com)



## Christopher Cobb Models

Christopher Cobb is an artist and craftsman who specialises in making decorative architectural models, including a range of follies and summerhouses at 1/12 scale. For further information on these and bespoke pieces, contact [www.christophercobb.co.uk](http://www.christophercobb.co.uk)